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Senate Meeting Agendas and Minutes,  
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Fall 9-8-2021

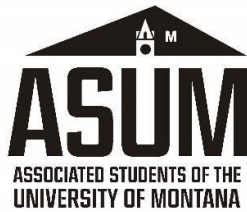
### Documents from the September 8, 2021 meeting of the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)

University of Montana–Missoula. Associated Students

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**ASUM SENATE MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2021  
University Center (UC) 225 – 6:00 P.M.**

To view a Zoom recording of this meeting, please [click here](#).

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 pm

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Senators Bell, Berget, Bowles, Feeley, Glueckert, Gudmundsson, Hawthorne, Jolly, Keller, Kiefer, La'a, McKenzie, Shaver, Vanderkar, Ververis, Williams; President Durnell, Vice President Lock, Business Manager Rinck

Excused: Senators Kayne, Kuney

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to Approve by **BM Rinck-La'a**; UC Called

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- a. Alex Akmal (Marketing and Outreach Director): Hi everyone. I am a senior majoring in Sociology and minoring in Gender and Sexuality Studies. I served on Senate for a time, and I enjoyed it very much. As the Marketing and Outreach Director, I am in charge of all of the marketing efforts for ASUM and ASUM Legal. I am also working on editing the website, which is a large undertaking. I also do a lot of in-person outreach, such as putting together tabling materials. I helped curate the ASUM display in the library, and I serve on a couple of university committees to keep up to date with what is going on. You will hear about some broadcast opportunities tonight and President Durnell has most of the information about that. I also came here to talk about Take a Break Tuesday, as we are hosting it next week. All of the ASUM agencies will be tabling and we have confirmed some student group tables as well. The Big Dipper ice cream truck will be there and this event will run from 11:00-1:00

- pm. We want to make sure that Senators are present as well, especially because we are advertising the freshman Senate seat.
- a. President Durnell: Where and how can Senators get in touch with you?
  - b. Akmal: My work email is [asum.marketing@mso.umt.edu](mailto:asum.marketing@mso.umt.edu) and I am located in Office 116D within the Legal Services office in the ASUM Suite. I always love guests. Also, please bring any of your marketing and outreach ideas to be directly so we can work on them and create a vision.
  - b. Lauren O'Neill: I am a 2L in the Alexander Blewett III School of Law and I worked for ASUM Legal Services this summer. I believe that Senator Glueckert will be giving me time to address my authorship for SB7. I cannot encourage you enough to pass this resolution, because it is not partisan and is common sense. The Student Bar Association has seen a similar resolution this week. I would like to reserve most of my comments for my authorship.
  - c. Danielle Pease [Student-at-Large]: It is nice to see you all in person. I am also a 2L at the law school and tonight I have a resolution being seen, the resolution establishing an award for excellence in access to education. It has been brought to my attention that there is a potential that someone is going to move to table this resolution pending a possible resolution being written to create a subcategory of documents that discuss awards. I do not think this is appropriate. I think that moving to table this resolution is procedurally out of order because there is no discussion had when there is a motion to table, and it is simply a way to bypass seeing a resolution because this motion only needs a simple majority to pass. I have written ten points on why I think it would be inappropriate to table a resolution pending a resolution that has not been written. You would be endorsing that work should be stalled based on potential plans. Individuals who are seeking to table this resolution should have had a conversation with me prior to this meeting. All the awards should be put in the Bylaws before they are moved. I chair the Committee on Equitable Education and our committee work has not been stalled, and this is a long-term project that we would like to open nominations for. You are endorsing that work should be stalled based on potential plans. Individuals who are seeking to do this should have had a conversation with me prior to this meeting. People at R&A did not have this conversation and it is not my responsibility to wait for someone to write a resolution, because I have been drafting this sense July. The location of the award in the governing documents is immaterial to the resolution's goals and formatting is not my responsibility. Me waiting for someone else to do something when this resolution furthers ASUM's core values is inappropriate. I commute from Bozeman every week, so if this is really about convenience for you, think about convenience for me. I am open to any questions.
  - a. BM Rinck: I appreciate you bringing this resolution to the Senate. We removed other awards from the Bylaws in a resolution last week and I do not

want to see the intent of this resolution have to wait. Do you have any ideas to put forth in terms of not incorporating this language in the Bylaws?

- b. Pease: I think someone in R&A moved to add the resolution to a portion they thought was listed in the Bylaws. I should not be blamed and the resolution should not be stalled. I guess there are no other amendments other than you all moving it later as you see fit.
- c. BM Rinck: Where does the Committee on Equitable Education exist in the Bylaws currently? It is not in the public version.
- d. Durnell: The language has been voted on and it can be retroactively adjusted to make sure everything is updated according to passed resolutions and committee updates.
- e. Jacob Owens: Some of you may remember me from last year when I was covering ASUM last year and I am covering it again this Fall. If you think there is anything the Kaimin should be aware of, please let me know. I submitted online public comment to leave my contact information and you can contact me by phone or email.
- d. Christian Pfiefer [Former ASUM Senator]: I am signing in as a recent alumnus of the University of Montana to discuss the resolution establishing ASUM's demands regarding the COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement. I do not pretend to provide any special insight that senior Senators can't speak on when you get to this section of the meeting, but I can speak as a general resident of Missoula and as a student organizer during my undergraduate career. At the beginning of the pandemic, the United States provided a lackluster implementation of CDC policy that led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans, and in a more personal sense, disrupted the education of everyone here and beyond. COVID has shrunk to a more manageable stage, but has provided more challenges for all of us, specifically in the form of its Delta variant. This variant has a dramatically larger concentration rate, as it can get to more people more quickly, compared to its parent virus. It has the capacity to not only sink us into another lockdown, but also to create the conditions for further mutated versions to exist, extending our struggle even further. The biggest ally of COVID is time, and its resolutions like the one being seen today that prevent COVID from having an opportunity to recur. With the population of the university making up a significant portion of Missoula, the second largest city in the state, there is a responsibility for students to control our vectors. The FDA is starting to approve certain vaccines for general use, exercising decades of institutional experience that is informed by the academic and scientific community. We should buy into that effort in good faith, instead of letting fear prevent us from accepting solutions. This issue is very complicated and I am sure you will have a spirited discussion when you get to that section of the meeting, but I am open to any questions you may have.
- e. *Online Public Comment*

**f. Chloe Kearns**

[chloe.kearns@umconnect.umt.edu](mailto:chloe.kearns@umconnect.umt.edu)

I'm order to keep campus safe, UM needs to be more strict with rules to provide students the education they deserve. This includes mandatory vaccines to those who are able and masks on at all times until the vaccination rate is at a decent percentage. This is for the greater good of the community.

**g. Jacob Owens**

[jacob.owens@umontana.edu](mailto:jacob.owens@umontana.edu)

Hello, I'm Jacob Owens, and I'm a news reporter with the Montana Kaimin. I'm looking forward to covering ASUM again this fall. If anyone has any resolutions coming up they think the Kaimin should cover or anything else noteworthy feel free to reach out to me at my phone number: 520-268-7934 or my email:

[Jacob.owens@umontana.edu](mailto:Jacob.owens@umontana.edu).

**h. Hannah Gibbs**

[hg156539@umconnect.umt.edu](mailto:hg156539@umconnect.umt.edu)

We absolutely should have a vaccination requirement on campus. COVID cases continue to rise and our campus and community needs to reach herd immunity via vaccination and there's no way to confirm that at this current time.

**i. Marti Liechty**

[marti.liechty@umontana.edu](mailto:marti.liechty@umontana.edu)

A vaccine mandates is a non-partisan issue and would be deeply beneficial not only to our campus integrity but the reason we are all here – higher public education... dont be a d\*ck.

## **5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**a. Designated Speaker: Paul Lasiter- Vice President of Operations and Finance at UMT**

- a. Lasiter: It is a great pleasure to be here today. I want to make you aware of a request from the administration for your approval and the students' approval of the investment of \$3.2 million into campus infrastructure that will hopefully make all of your lives better. We have had a period of really stagnated investment into our campus infrastructure and we are seeking to correct that. We took out bonds of about \$65 million in additional bonds a couple of years ago to provide us with the capital that we need to make investments in our infrastructure, and you may have seen some of the investments that we already made in places like the Urey and North Underground lecture halls. We will be working on the dining facility, Pantzer Hall, and the combined heating and power plant. Hopefully over the next eighteen months to a couple of years you are going to see a lot of cranes on campus and have to endure some noise, but those are good problems that I kind of like to have. I am asking for your support of this investment specifically because I would like to use the student facilities fees to repay that investment. Board policy requires any investment over \$200,000.00 to be

approved by you all, and you have approved such expenditures in the past, such as the Student Life Master Plan, which we greatly appreciate. I see your approval and am happy to answer any questions. We want to create an environment that is excellent and that provides the best possible learning opportunities for everyone.

- i. [See Exhibit One: UM Furniture Examples](#)
- ii. [See Exhibit Two: Fixed Seating Classroom Upgrade Summary](#)
- iii. BM Rinck: How much of those student facilities fees will be spent?
- iv. Lasiter: I cannot remember the exact number. I think it is about \$120 for residents and twice that for non-residents. How much we will actually be spending on that fee is dependent on how much the ultimate investment is and how long of a timeframe we need to take to leave some of those fees for other things as well. We are expecting to see, thankfully to increased enrollment and rate increase, substantially more resources available from facilities fees. We will be making some one-time investments under that \$200,000.00 limit, such as in the Music Building. The interest rate we will be using to assess this internal loan is the lowest I can possibly offer, which is about 3.25% right now, which is pretty good. My basic approach is that anything we invest in using student fees and general funds, we are going to use the lowest rate we possible can.
- v. Gudmundsson: To clarify, are you asking us to consider using student funds to pay back the money you have spent, or to approve future expenditures?
- vi. Lasiter: Future expenditures (\$3.2 million), everything that has happened so far is covered.
- vii. BM Rinck: We will not vote on this right now, but I will work with you [Paul Lasiter] on creating a resolution to prevent this plan in detail to the Senate so they can vote and provide feedback as they see fit.
- viii. La'a: What does the re-payment time frame look like?
- ix. Lasiter: It will depend on how much we will have in generated funds available. One of the situations I want to avoid putting the university in is tying up all the available resources we have. We cannot make any additional investments until this investment is paid off. My approach is to generally leave enough room in the cash flow we have available, take a portion of that for longer term payback, a portion for intermediate payback, and a portion for intermediate payback. It could possibly be a 10–12-year payback, but it could be more of an aggressive approach depending on those other factors.

- x. Ververis: You said that these funds are coming from the facility fee, but is there a reason it is not coming from the bond proceeds?
  - xi. Lasiter: It is coming from the bond proceeds to make the initial investment; we have the money sitting aside and can make that capital investment. Using the cash flow from the facilities fees pays back that loan with interest.
- b. Senator Broadcasting Opportunities Discussion
  - a. Over the Summer I started conversations with KGBA, and I feel there is a great opportunity for partnership, and they had some promising ideas. One opportunity is from a class in the Journalism school who complete a 5:00 pm broadcast each Thursday. They were considering having ten-minute interviews with Senators. The second opportunity is a podcast series with ASUM that could bring in other members of the university so they can get your ideas and thoughts about their chosen topics. They asked that there be Senator input on these opportunities, which does not have to come right now, but please let me know if you have any thoughts.
    - i. VP Lock: Keep in mind, participating in these opportunities will count as an entry into the raffle.
    - ii. Bowles: How do we contact KGBA to get involved?
    - iii. President Durnell: You can provide your feedback directly to Senator Vanderkar who Chairs the Marketing and Outreach Committee, or to Alex Akmal. I will allow this marketing initiative to rest in the hands of the M&O committee, and I will follow-up to make sure that KGBA receives input. These opportunities will become available primarily by mid-October.
- c. Senator Office Space
  - a. I spoke with Lou Villemmez about the ASUM Legal Office because there is a lot of Senator activity in the office, and he said we could use a part of Legal for Senator office space. A big thanks to Senator Ververis for helping to clear this space. There is a private office in the back of ASUM that is available to you. There are two desks and a desktop computer as well. Please respect this new space. You may also use the conference room, the space in my office, and the lounge area in the front of the office as well. Your presence there makes the office so much more fulfilling!
- d. Committee Reports
  - a. Campus Response Team: We meet twice a week to discuss COVID on campus. I think I will continue to add a COVID section in my report regardless. Our Childcare agency has had a positive case from one of the staff members, and fortunately it was reserved to a single classroom. We contacted the county for guidance and they told us to close the Green Room. This is

being taken very seriously so please be aware that this was handled quickly, and the staff there is doing everything they can to keep things safe. There is a student social media campaign going on right now to film short videos to help discuss the pandemic and debunk myths about the vaccine, and they will speak to professionals from the UM Pharmacy program as well. The staff at Curry will be boosted by the end of the week and we are working to find a budget to accommodate this increase in staff. At Curry, only students can get tested but we are working on opening that up to faculty and staff. I heard incorrectly last week that if you are asymptomatic, you cannot get tested at Curry, but you can and should receive tests results in about an hour. Testing through the county is extremely backed up, so when interacting with the county, please be aware that things may take a while. There is generally more availability at Curry, so if you believe you are a close contact or were advised to get tested, please go get tested at Curry. There are about twenty students getting vaccinated per day, and hopefully that number trends upwards.

e. Other

- a. Today at 5:00 pm, Faculty Senate approved a resolution calling for vaccine mandates, mask usage, and other improved COVID-19 efforts. Staff Senate is voting on a similar resolution, so the three primary branches of shared governance on campus will have made a stance, which is very helpful going into the Board of Regents (BOR) meeting.
  - i. Keller: If we pass this resolution, what does that mean because these mandates are from state-level guidance?
  - ii. President Durnell: Passing a resolution is about stating a stance of the students. If we pass a resolution and send it to the BOR, it will be making them aware of the representative stance of UM students. We do not have the authority to institute a mandate, as that must come from the BOR at a state level. My encouragement is always for shared governance to take these issues hand-in-hand and make sure the BOR has a solid understanding of the stance from the university. ASUM commonly speaks to the University, and the Montana Associated Students consists of the President and Vice President of every MT associated student government, a body which also speaks directly to the BOR.

## 6. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

a. Committee Assignments

- a. Meeting resumed at 6:54 pm after fixing technical issues.
- b. Motion by **Glueckert-Durnell** to remove Senator Glueckert from M&O; UC Called



- c. Motion to approve committee assignments by **Ververis-Bowles**; UC Called
- b. SB9-21/22: Resolution Striking Eight Committees from the Bylaws and Repurposing the Sustainability Board
  - a. Authorship (President Durnell): Thank you Mr. Chair. First I apologize: I was going to propose this resolution in New Business last week to be seen by RA, but I forgot to propose it. It does significantly change the Bylaws so it was urgent enough for me to justify forwarding, but I do intend to use my forwarding power sparingly and honor the work of the committees. This is a resolution I discussed for a long time as a Senator because of my experiences with ASUM committees. I loved serving on ASUM committees, but most of them were unfilled, met very sparingly, did not conduct regular business, or did not actually have business to discuss despite being a formal committee. Because of these issues, it was a promise in my campaign that we would identify committees to cut from our governance in order ensure the volunteer time of Senators was reduced, and always well justified. The first thing I did when elected was meet with the Agency Directors and ask them their experiences with the Agency Oversight Boards. Every agency director except for the Sustainability Coordinator asked that their oversight committee be struck from the Bylaws. This was either due to the new Marketing Director supplementing the work previously held by these committees, the lack of actual Senator Engagement in their budget oversight, or the odd scheduling. I threw in another few justifications, which are that cutting the committees ultimately saves Senators time which is the only currency Senators have, and that only one or two Senators were informed on agency prospects through these committees, when we could invite Agency directors to the Senate at any time to discuss their current initiatives, they can participate in public comment, or Senators can establish times with them. Resultantly, Childcare, Transportation, Housing, and Legal Oversight Boards were struck. The Sustainability Board was kept and remodeled in collaboration with the Sustainability coordinator. None of the demands on this resolution contradict the requests of the Agency Directors. The food pantry oversight board may transform into the Basic Needs Agency oversight board in the future, but will serve a similar function. This oversight board needs to stay because it has so many community and campus stakeholders, donors, and other invested members. The Personnel Supervision Committees has been inactive for a number of years, so we struck it. The UC Oversight and Campus Recreation committees are both University committees, not ASUM committees. Lastly, the Zero Waste Oversight Board initially oversaw the recycling fee years ago but that fee is no longer housed under ASUM. The Board has had its difficulties, and multiple past Senators have testified to a need for the

committee to be struck. This was a long explanation, but if you have any questions, I yield to them!

- b. Vanderkar: Who will take over all the different tasks that have been completed through Legal Board?
- c. President Durnell: Those tasks are not defined in personnel policy or in the Bylaws, so they were created in consultation with Lou or taken on individually. The perspective we considered most was Lou's because he does not feel that he needed Senators to perform tasks unless they did so voluntarily. Likewise, the marketing for agencies falls directly under the M&O Director position, though previous Senators on this committee worked on marketing. The oversight boards were to oversee director's budgets, but Senators have made mistakes with budgets in the past and the directors tend to take their budget information directly from our ASUM Accountant or Business Manager. Those tasks were designed for the oversight board, and any additional tasks were performed separately.
- d. Vanderkar: Essentially, the Senators oversight is only in the budget for these agencies?
- e. President Durnell: The oversight of agencies is my job and the job of our advisors, but oversight of a budget will be in the hands of the full Senate instead of a smaller group. Having a group of, for example, four Senators create a budget is difficult and redundant when moved to the Senate floor. Our agency directors agree with this as well.
- f. Williams: Is the ASUM Marketing and Outreach director overseen directly by the M&O Committee?
- g. Durnell: Yes. This can be seen on L42 of the resolution and the language is taken directly from personnel policy.
- h. BM Rinck: I am in very strong support of this resolution. This was written with Senator workload in mind to remove redundancy. If you have an interest in these agencies, you can always speak to them. The job of the oversight board primarily was to see and approve budgets, but I remember not yet having the capacity to lend a critical eye when I was first on the oversight board. The Business Manager, the ASUM Accountant, and the Senate at large has more of the capacity to do so. We still encourage you to get involved in anything you are interested in, but this deformatizes the workload for all of you. Please vote yes on this.
- i. Motion by **President Durnell-Williams** to add Adrienne Smith, University Center Director; Steve Thompson, Campus Recreation Director.; UC Called
- j. Motion by **Glueckert** to add Alex Akmal to the send to line; Ruled Friendly by Authors
- k. ***SB9-21/22 Passed Unanimously***

- c. Welcome Feast Tabling
  - a. Welcome Feast is this Friday from 11:00-5:00 pm. We will have a number of ASUM-associated tables there and I strongly encourage you to come. You are welcome to enter your name into the raffle if you attend. If you commit three hours or more, you can enter your name twice. Maddie Jones, our Sustainability Coordinator, mentioned that they need help with composting there. Helping with this also qualifies as an entry in the raffle, so please get in contact with her if you are interested.
- d. Board of Regents Meeting
  - a. Glueckert: Is BOR public comment over Zoom?
  - b. VP Lock: I believe they will have a Zoom option, and if there is one, I would encourage you to come. BOR also accepts written public comment. If there is something you want any of us to consider when going to BOR, please let us know.
  - c. BM Rinck: If there is a Zoom option for public comment, remember that you have to register beforehand and there is a link on their website.
  - d. VP Lock: Keep in mind that the BOR meeting is next week Wednesday and Thursday, so we will not have a Senate meeting next week.
- e. Other
  - a. Senator Crisp has resigned; therefore we have eighteen Senators. We have three vacancies that will be filled, including the freshman seat, by the Interview Committee in tandem with President Durnell.
  - b. The Griz home game is this weekend, so we get to see our first raffle winner today. If you commit time to an ASUM volunteer activity, you will be included in the raffle.
    - i. First Winner: Senator Kayne
    - ii. Alternate Winner: Senator Hawthorne

## 7. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

**Zero Base Carryover:** \$283,465.05

**S.T.I.P.:** \$247,003.30

**Special Allocation:** \$20,039.04

**Travel Allocation:** \$51,338.68

**Research & Creative Scholarship:** \$15,791.89

**Contingency Fund:** \$108,053.57

**Union Emergency:** \$6,000.00

- a. SB10-21/22: Resolution Endorsing the University of Montana Civic Knowledge Initiative
  - a. Authorship (Vice President Lock): Business Manager Rinck, President Durnell, Esteemed Senators; This Resolution seeks to endorse the merits of

the Mansfield Center's proposed Civic Knowledge Initiative, which would incorporate fundamental civic concepts into the university's core curriculum, and would ensure that all graduates of the University of Montana understand basic civic principles upon completing their degrees. Before us, then, is the opportunity to state clearly which aspects of our constituency's education are of value to us, and to them. However, the merits of a truly civic education are visible not only in the lives of those who have received one, but in the society in which those recipients reside. It has long been noted by giants of American history that universities play a vital role in fostering a healthy democracy. Pertinent is this quote from George Washington found in a letter to Alexander Hamilton, in which he states: "*[E]ducation generally, as one of the surest means of enlightening and giving just ways of thinking to our citizens, but particularly the establishment of a university; where the youth from all parts of the United States might receive the polish of erudition in the arts, sciences, and belles-lettres; and where those who were disposed to run a political course might not only be instructed in the theory and principles, but [also] the interests and politics of the nation of course would be discussed, they would lay the surest foundation for the practical part.*" Civic Education programs have become common-place within the higher education community – university systems ranging from Wyoming to Stanford have implemented them. However, UM's implementation of this program would distinguish it as the first to do so in both the Pacific Northwest and in Montana. This program is remarkable for its consistency with the stated values not only the entirety of the institution, which emphasizes within its mission its "*commitment to education defined in the broadest sense as personal development and citizen preparation*", but with the values of our Association in particular, which is predicated on a fundamental commitment to the democratic process and is, in many respects, the highest opportunity afforded to UM students to become civically engaged through practice. To conclude, I wish to offer my apologies to the Relations and Affairs committee for this Resolution's having been forwarded – the timeframe was truncated because the Mansfield Center will be presenting to the General Education committee shortly, and I wished to give them ample time to incorporate ASUM's endorsement into their pitch. I ask that we show concerted support for this initiative and ask that you vote yes on this Resolution. I thank you all for your attention, I thank Secretary Berna for her diligence, and respectfully yield my authorship.

- i. Motion by **Glueckert** to add a semicolon after each name in the send-to line; Ruled Friendly by Author
- ii. Shaver: So ideally, would this resolution seek to add an additional course curriculum or would this be integrated into classes.

- iii. VP Lock: It will add a first and last option to do a Civic Education certificate if you choose that option. It will also make standard for students graduating with a UM degree to have completed a number of qualifications that contribute towards their civic education. Classes from several departments will count towards that and there will be a number of podcasts that students can listen to in order to educate themselves. Finally, the goal is for them to have the equivalent of civic understanding that a non-resident must take to pass a citizenship test.
- iv. Gudmundsson: To VP Lock- Would this then add for those course descriptors across multiple majors a category not unlike our current communications, diversity, or other attribute at the end of reports? Would it be similar noting civic education?
- v. VP Lock: I cannot speak super authoritatively to that. I expect that in order to complete a certificate, there will be designated courses.
- vi. Motion by **Hawthorne** to correct the spelling of “Humphrey” in L37; Ruled Friendly by Author
- vii. President Durnell: I think some clarity is that if this was to be implemented as mandatory, it would be supplemental to general education requirements we already have, and that is tangential to the general education reconstruction that has already been undergone.
- viii. Berget: To VP Lock- Is it to encourage students to take more civil liberties classes if it is not going to add to the number of general education courses?
- ix. VP Lock: It would be a requirement to complete your degree to receive some kind of minimum civic education, which personally I do not think is much of an ask. That will be done through simple asks like listening to podcasts and courses many students take as general education requirements will fulfill this. To list off the specific requirement qualifications: one eligible course from the general education group nine (Democracy and Citizenship); five videos or podcasts teaching basic tenants of United States history, government, and civic values; three UM community events carrying civic designations; a culminating online exam modeled of the US citizenship and immigration services exam. Many university students complete these requirements regularly.
- x. Bell: To VP Lock- Would dual-credits or transfer credits count toward those categories?
- xi. VP Lock: I cannot say yes for sure, but I imagine so and that is something I would advocate for during our continued discussions with the Mansfield Center.

- xii. Williams: To VP Lock- Would this just be another general education requirement or a different kind of requirement?
  - xiii. VP Lock: My understanding is that it would be slightly different, and they seem to be taking a more unique and targeted approach with it, but it falls under the jurisdiction of the general education committee, and they will ultimately be the ones to sign off on it.
  - xiv. President Durnell: In our discussions with Deena Mansour as well, this embodies the principle of a micro-credential, which goes on your transcript. Even if it is extra work, it is not extra work that is going to be lost, but it will be something that provides a classified credential on your transcript.
  - xv. VP Lock: In addition to that, there is also an option for a Civic certificate. The credential would be required to graduate, but if you do very minimal additional work, you can get an additional certificate on your transcript. The requirements for that are an additional three courses for a total of four courses, an additional three events for a total of six events with civic designation, and an additional five videos or podcasts including a component focused on Montana and rural engagement.
  - xvi. ***SB10-21/22 Passed Unanimously***
- b. Committee Reports
    - a. Instructional Equipment Fee Planning: There is a \$25.00 fee assessed to students for instructional equipment in the current structure. Our committee will meet about twice a year. During the meeting, we went over the breakdown of the fee and 75% is given to student credit hours delivered and the rest is dispersed based on the number of majors the department delivers, and the College of Humanities and Sciences receives the majority of this money.
  - c. Office Hours
    - a. Mondays from 10:00-11:00 pm, Tuesdays from 2:00-3:00 pm, Wednesdays from 11:00-12:00 pm, and Thursdays from 10:00-11:00 pm. I do not have set office hours on Fridays, but I tend to be in the office and you are welcome to stop by or schedule an appointment.
  - d. Birthdays
    - a. Secretary Berna's forever birthday!
    - b. Gudmundsson: Did you acquire a gift?
    - c. BM Rinck: I am thinking about getting everyone a personalized gift.
  - e. Other
    - a. None.

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

***Senator Bowles***

**Resolutions and Affairs (RA)**

The Relations and Affairs Committee met on Sunday, September 5th, 2021 at 12:00 pm to discuss three resolutions proposed during new business in the Senate; Resolution Establishing ASUM's Stance on COVID-19 Vaccination, Resolution Establishing Excellence in Access to Education Award, and Resolution Generally Revising Fiscal Policy

The first resolution went through extensive line level edits, and passed by a 6-1-0. The second resolution went through debate about what staff should be qualified and whether R.A.s should be included in the award response, ultimately, the resolution passed unanimously to go forward to the senate floor. The third resolution was passed unanimously without much debate and almost no line level edits.

***Senator Kiefer***

**Provost Search Committee**

The Provost Search Committee met at 8:30am on Thursday, September 2nd. The Committee completed another review of the job posting for the Provost position and discussed whether or not to include UM's research ranking. The Committee reviewed notes from staff, faculty, and student listening sessions. Although the listening sessions were open to the campus, I am not able to share notes from each of those sessions. The job is now posted and being widely shared on UM Jobs and multiple other job listing sites (that I was unable to get the names for). The Committee was amazed by the amount of student turnout at the listening session and found it to be highly substantive and productive. All of the committee members are taking an Implicit Bias and Unconscious Bias course. You can view the job posting through AGB Search, which is a consulting and evaluation services company specifically for higher education institutions.

**Provost and Executive Vice President Job Postings**

<https://www.agbsearch.com/searches/provost-and-executive-vice-president-university-of-montana>

[https://university-montana-hr.silkroad.com/epostings/index.cfm?fuseaction=app.jobinfo&jobid=3038&company\\_id=16254&version=1&source=ONLINE&jobOwner=992276&aid=1](https://university-montana-hr.silkroad.com/epostings/index.cfm?fuseaction=app.jobinfo&jobid=3038&company_id=16254&version=1&source=ONLINE&jobOwner=992276&aid=1)

Feel free to reach out to me or Senator Hawthorne for any questions about the Search Committee.

**Griz Card Contactless Credential Committee**

The Griz Card Contactless Credential Committee met at 3:00pm on Tuesday, September 7th. The Committee Chair Maggie McCarthy gave a presentation on the history of the Griz Card and the changes that are coming by Fall 2022. The Griz Card was first established in 1993 and processes over 3 million card swipes a year for 18,200 card holders. The new Contactless

Credentials program aims to move away from magnetic strips on Griz Cards to tap cards, mobile credentials, and smart watch credentials. This will enable students to get their credentials set up well before arriving to campus, which is helpful for both new domestic students, transfer students, and international or exchange students.

The Griz Card is being updated in line with industry standards for debit and credit cards, and will also be compatible with the more modern dining facility that will replace the Food Zoo. The program plans to commence small group testing in Spring 2022 and have a full public launch in Fall 2022. MFA or DUO authentication will be required for mobile credentials. Students who do not have access to mobile technology will still be able to get a physical card/tap card that has a chip instead of a mag strip.

There is still discussion on whether or not student's preferred names will show up on mobile credentials. The people who work behind Banner are showing strong interest in putting preferred names on Griz Cards. Students who want to change their preferred name do not have to go through the Registrar's Office anymore and can update their preferred name on Cyberbear. Anybody who uses a Griz Card will be able to set up multiple credentials on mobile devices, i.e. a smartphone and a smart watch. It is unclear if students will be able to set up both mobile credentials and be issued a physical card if they want to and it is not a matter of needing a physical card.

The new Contactless Credentials on Griz Cards lines up with the campus-wide effort to install card readers across the entire campus. The card readers were initially funded as part of a COVID-19 contact tracing program, but they are now being utilized more for campus safety and security. Contact point people for each building (i.e. department chair, secretary) will be able to access electronic door locks - this means that a roster of students and professors will have access to a certain building at certain hours. This also means that in the case of a campus lockdown, UMPD and point people will be able to remotely lock doors and lock down campus quickly. In the past, UMPD took about four hours to unlock doors every morning and evening on campus. The card readers will support public access hours and extended student, faculty, administrator, and staff hours. UMPD is also working on completing campus-wide building surveys to identify areas that should be locked that are not currently secure. The Committee will meet again within the next few weeks and they are very excited about this project and what it means for modernizing the UM campus.

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions about the Griz Card Contactless Credential Committee.

- a. Kiefer: The Provost Search Committee has been a great experience. If you can get on a Search Committee, I suggest you take the opportunity.
- b. Glueckert: I went to the General Education Ad Hoc committee meeting today and it was super overwhelming. I think I will have more to share during the next Senate meeting.
- c. BM Rinck: Just so everyone is on the same page- if you are a Chair or Vice Chair of an ASUM committee, you usually write a committee report and send it in to be seen



on the floor. As University committees start to meet, then you will usually give a verbal committee report on the floor due to the timing of these committees.

## 9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. SB6-21/22: Resolution Establishing the Excellence in Access to Education Award
  - a. Pease: The purpose of this resolution is to establish an award that is for TAs, RAs, and faculty members that go above and beyond standard best practices for helping student survivors continue their education. If you read the appendix, you will know that I am a survivor of sexual violence and I worked through the criminal justice system, Title IX, and the order of protection process. These processes have a fundamental impact on your education and the appendix defines how I was able to graduate. This award encourages others to continue to work to go above and beyond requirements such as mandatory reporting
  - b. Motion by **President Durnell-Gudmundsson** to adjust line number spacing by removing L63 and adding two spaces after the send-to line; UC Called
  - c. Glueckert: I would like to out myself as the Senator who wanted to table this, as mentioned earlier. I have since decided to not carry out this tabling motion. I am also a survivor of sexual assault and that is why I felt it was appropriate to table this and put it in an area where I thought it would fit better. The working group did remove all the awards from the Bylaws. I agree very much with the intent of this resolution, and I want to thank the authors so much for working on this, and I do not want my opinion in wanting to table this to take away from what this award is. I will be voting yes on this pending some amendments I would like to make. Thank you.
  - d. Ververis: Thank you to the authors for working on this. I also wanted to table this resolution pending figuring out a better spot to put awards. I was in the Bylaws working group and we had removed awards, so I did not feel it was appropriate to have this award listed there. I apologize that I did not bring up these issues in R&A. I did not think it was something to be discussed in R&A because I do not feel that is the purpose of the committee. I will be voting yes on this pending some clarity amendments I would like to make
  - e. Williams: Question for Ververis and Glueckert- What place did you both see to be a better fit for this resolution?
    - i. Glueckert: When we were discussing this after R&A, we thought a better place would be a separate document where all awards could live. The Bylaws, in my opinion, are meant to show how ASUM and elections are supposed to be run, so I did not think that was the place for this award.

- ii. Ververis: I also felt that in preserving those awards that it was probably better to put them in a separate document that outlines the process behind them. Even the old version of the Bylaws did not outline the process for a majority of the awards. As such, I thought it would be better to have an awards document that could be passed easily from Senate to Senate.
- f. Kiefer: This entire debate we are having is a result of a lack of communication, and that is not something we need to argue over. When we are talking about resolutions in R&A or even before then, someone should speak up and communicate any issues at that time. Any awards document does not exist yet and I do not think we should take that into account yet. I think right now it is important to uphold the intent of the authors and respect the errors of communication while this was being processed through the Senate.
- g. Gudmundsson: The Bylaw working group noticed that the awards were not well described, and this shines strongly on that. This discussion is less about creating the award in a certain place but is instead about allowing the Committee on Equitable Education to make nominations upon the passing of this document. I think that procedural language should be in the Bylaws because it is a reference to the power of a committee.
- h. President Durnell: I have to disagree with award procedure being in the Bylaws. I think this procedure is phenomenally detailed, but to place it in the Bylaws is a bad precedent toward what we looked at in the Bylaw working group. It is completely dilatory to things we have done in the past. I am grateful that there are Senators taking accountability for not necessarily following procedure properly. R&A is very challenging because there is a lot of responsibility, and it is hard to determine what to say when you are making intent changes or not. I want to keep that respect in bind, especially because the committee is very new and they are doing well.
- i. Motion by **President Durnell-Glueckert** to strike Danielle Pease's title of "Law student" and replace it with "student-at-large"; UC Called
- j. Vanderkar: Question for Glueckert- What would be the purpose in not tabling this resolution? We would have to go back and remove it from the Bylaws and figure out our awards process. It seems to be a consensus to work on that awards document and then move into this.
  - i. Glueckert: Out of respect to the authors, I will not move to table this today. I no longer plan on making this extra document for awards. This is not my hill to die on and I acknowledge the fact that this should have been done by myself and Senator Ververis beforehand. That is our fault and I apologize for that.

- ii. Ververis: I Agree with senator Glueckert. I do not want to do it tonight. That is my frank opinion.
- k. BM Rinck: To previous points, I was coming into this discussion thinking that it might be appropriate to table and reassess. I think the author Ms. Pease provided compelling points of why it should not be tabled. I think procedurally regardless, I think the best thing is to accept this resolution and put it into writing. Senator Gudmundsson made a very compelling point as well if it is in the authority of the committee.
- l. Motion by **BM Rinck-Glueckert** to accept current track changes in the document; UC Called; Objection Noted by Ververis; Discussion Called by President Durnell
  - i. BM Rinck: The track changes provided were sent in as friendly by the authors and were provided in the Senate materials.
  - ii. POO (Kiefer): There are updated track changes that I sent to Secretary Berna, and these are not the correct track changes.
  - iii. President Durnell: To Ververis- Why did you call objection?
  - iv. Ververis: I remember discussion in R&A about the UM abbreviation and wanted to note that.
  - v. *Motion Passed*
- m. Motion by **Glueckert** to amend L61-62 to read “The following language shall be added to the Equitable Education Committee section in the ASUM Bylaws”; Ruled Friendly by Authors
- n. Motion by **Glueckert-Ververis** to delete “and or” on L70 and insert “and-or resident assistant” after the comma following teaching assistant; UC Called
- o. Motion by **Ververis-Glueckert** to amend L88 to insert “by a simple majority” after “nomination”; Ruled Friendly by Authors
- p. Motion by **Ververis-Glueckert** to strike L100-102
  - i. Authorship (Ververis): I want to do this because I want there to be a better system of removing an award from someone. It does not feel right to not have a procedure for removal fully outlined.
  - ii. Kiefer: I second what Senator Ververis said, so if you have better language please propose it, and if not I will not support this motion
  - iii. *Motion Passed*
- q. Motion by **Kiefer-President Durnell** to change the placement of footnotes to be behind each semicolon; UC Called; Objection Called by Glueckert and Ververis; Discussion Called by Vanderkar
  - i. Kiefer: Generally, in other resolutions that ASUM has passed, the footnote goes behind the semicolon.
  - ii. POC (Glueckert): I am confused because I thought that Senator Kiefer said to put the footnotes after the semicolon.

- iii. Kiefer: I do mean for the footnote to be behind the semicolon
- iv. Glueckert withdrew objection.
- v. President Durnell: Putting the footnote behind the semicolon is standard practice for resolutions.
- vi. *Motion Passed*
- vii. Ververis withdrew objection.
- r. Motion by **Glueckert-Ververis** to strike on L78 “ASUM” and capitalize “executives”; UC Called
- s. Motion by **Kiefer-Ververis** to change all instances of “UMT” to “UM”; UC Called
  - i. Vanderkar: In R&A we made that change and when the document was sent to Secretary Berna, that language was included.
  - ii. POI (President Durnell): I feel like I set that precedent last week with my resolution including “UMT”, but it should be “UM”.
  - iii. Vanderkar: R&A made that change from UMT to UM. The document here does not have some of the changes made in R&A.
  - iv. POI (Glueckert): I think that is the change Senator Kiefer was trying to make.
- t. Motion by **Hawthorne** to correct the spelling of “Soazig” in L103; UC Called
- u. Motion by **Glueckert** to amend L79 and make “award” lowercase; UC Called
- v. Durnell: This is an excellent example of the importance of R&A work. When these changes are not made in R&A, they must be made on the floor. That eliminates our chance of making our meeting shorter and practicing brevity, so I want to point that out as a point of encouragement. I am not trying to point fingers, but that is important going forward. Question for Vanderkar- When we are saying that the resolution with the right track changes wasn’t sent to the Secretary, are you saying that the resolution passed from R&A was not sent to the Secretary?
- w. Vanderkar: Some of the changes that have been made here were changes already made to the document in R&A that was sent to the Secretary.
- x. Durnell: That had to be communicated. That needed to be communicated in this meeting before we started making those amendments. It is very important and there is a procedure for a reason.
- y. POI (SAL Pease): They were made but I thought they were wrong, so we moved to make them friendly. Nobody caught that, but there were corrections made by Senators who knew I made them friendly.
- b. SB7-21/22: Resolution Establishing ASUM’s Demands Regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement
  - a. Authorship (President Durnell): Thank you Mr. Chair. In the cabinet meetings, President Bodnar often mentions how addressing the COVID-19

virus on this campus is so much harder, and more emotionally exhausting this semester than ever before. I couldn't agree more: My summer was filled with important initiatives, like an emergency-temporary housing initiative, office upgrades, governing document changes, personal pronoun and name change accessibility initiatives. All of these initiatives were abruptly paused, because the COVID-19 Delta Variant posed an incredible threat to campus. A week into September and the school year, I am sad to report that COVID-19 transmission is unprecedentedly high, leading me to believe it is the most important point of conversation we could be having right now. Because COVID-19 mitigation efforts are not cut and dry like they used to be, the University and the Board of Regents ought to be depending on feedback from the shared governance branches of each University regarding how they proceed. Hours ago, the faculty senate voted to approve a vaccine requirement for college campuses. This morning, Staff Senate proposed to do the same, and will soon vote. Student Bar Association is drafting an opinion currently as well. When President Bodnar addresses the Board of Regents, it makes an impact. So, it is essential that our stance regarding the greatest threat this campus has ever seen, is codified. It is essential, that we join our colleagues in shared governance to lobby the regents in a similar capacity. And, it is essential, that nothing is left unsaid by this meeting's end. While this resolution leans on scientific arguments and cites potential legal limitations that does not mean there aren't other valid arguments or experiences to discuss when justifying this body's decision. With that said, this can be a very sensitive topic and is often a point of contention, so I ask that voting members proceed with respect and open-minds. Also, make motions to amend the document to look like what you believe we should be passing. Make motions to remove things. It's what we're here for. I would like to yield the rest of my authorship to Senator Glueckert, Senator Gudmundsson, Senator Kiefer, and Student-At-Large O'Neill.

- b. Authorship (Glueckert): Thank you everyone. Other individuals and I are here to ask ASUM to take a stance on our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The virus hit Montana in March of 2020 and since then it has claimed nearly 2,000 lives in the state of Montana alone. Since the pandemic hit, scientists and researchers have diligently been working on ways to prevent the virus from doing any more damage. A big effort of this is creating the vaccine. I know there is a lot of vaccine hesitancy, especially because people feel the vaccine was made so fast. Research into mRNA vaccines began in the 1990s. The SARS-Cov 1 virus was first discovered in 2002 and there has been research into this since 2002 up until 2020 when the pandemic hit. This is when they were to put this research directly into the pandemic when COVID-

19 was pinpointed. Luckily, they were able to create the vaccine quickly and have an FDA vaccine, Pfizer, be approved. Because of how many COVID cases there are in the state, it is incredibly important for us to take a stance on this. COVID is taking over our hospitals; it is taking over everything. Our hospitals are overwhelmed by the amount of COVID cases to the point where ambulances are being turned away from hospitals. I cannot express the importance of passing this enough and telling the BOR and the student body that we support this effort. Just one week ago in my hometown of Billings, a 26-year-old unvaccinated girl that I went to high school with died. I really hope that you take the research information we give you today and you process it and vote on this information. I think that if you have other opinions, please make them known. I do not think that anything to do with big science has anything to do with that, but if you have other reservations, please make any of them known. I am really hoping that everyone will vote yes on this today.

- c. Authorship (Gudmundsson): The evidence overwhelmingly supports vaccines on campus. We as a body should have this conversation in full. I look forward to hearing everyone's take on this and I want everyone to bring up your questions and objections. I would be more than happy to share information that has been collected for this resolution. We are going to the BOR next week and this is the single most important thing for student safety in this state today.
- d. Authorship (Kiefer): I would like to make a personal appeal. As someone who teaches climate change, I know that communicating the science alone does not work. I have had close family members die because of COVID and I am sure that students on our campus have experienced similar things. These deaths are brutal, and it is an unbelievably painful disease to go through that progresses rapidly. We should not be making COVID political. Diseases do not care about your political information or whether you believe they are real or not. Getting COVID alone can be devastating, and young people in particular are facing horrible things because of COVID. We are not immune just because we are young, and I urge you all to take a step back from how politicized this has become and look at the real human impact.
- e. Authorship (SAL O'Neill): I was approached to assist in this bill because of the quality of legal research I accomplished over the summer. I am not an attorney; I am a legal scholar. I can speak to the legality of this as you have questions that arise, and I accept any questions. I did hear the concern given earlier about the legislature and I assume that was in reference to 702, which is addressed in this bill. I did call the Department of Health and Human Services to make sure 702 is sound in a legal sense in this case. Universities

are able to create more stringent requirements for vaccines. I have been very fortunate to not lose anyone from this disease, but many people I know have lost their ability to attend university for weeks or are still in school online. I will note that COVID is “on brand” for lack of a better term for Influenza, Diphtheria, and other vaccinations that you are required to receive to attend this university. This is another way for us to not continue in a pandemic that we are not opting into. Turning it down at this point is avergent to common sense.

- f. BM Rinck: Can someone please confirm that we are operating on the correct document right now?
- g. President Durnell: I assume so, but the track changes are from a Senator on the speakers list.
- h. Motion by **BM Rinck-Ververis** to accept current track changes; UC Called; Discussion Called by President Durnell
  - i. McKenzie: These are track changes I made in L21-31 to include current data from Missoula County. I am moving to add lines 21-31 with the current data from Missoula County.
  - ii. Durnell: I called discussion because I want to honor the fact that this language was drafted by Senator McKenzie; she is the original author of these changes and I want that reflected in the minutes.
  - iii. Motion passed
- i. Feeley: Thank you. I had the privilege of being assigned to Dr. Adams as a mentor, who is a Stanford educated physician and the Director of Curry Health Center. We have spoken over email and the evidence is overwhelming that there are a worrying amount of COVID-19 cases on campus. This resolution will give our Executives more leverage when they go to the BOR. I will stress that if there is a member of this body planning to cast a dissenting vote or is unsure of their opinion, please make it known. You have an obligation to your constituency and UM to make those opinions known. Our country’s response to this has been very poor regarding the pandemic. This is a somber and sad conversation, but we have to do it. In the coming weeks I assume we will talk about this more, so I encourage a yes vote.
- j. Keller: I want to say that I think the research UM has done about this virus is awesome, but personally I have a lot of family members in the healthcare system who have studied vaccines, and I think that it is not the universities place to take away anybody’s medical freedom, especially to those who pay to attend. I do not think it is their place to tell them what to put in their bodies. According to the FDA, the vaccine just approved has only been approved for ages 16+, which I have also talked to different physicians about in my hometown about, and the vaccine is still considered under emergency

approval for younger ages. This is very important to us because not all of the vaccines are FDA approved, leaving pharmaceutical companies to be protected under an act which allows them to not be held liable for anything that happens regarding liability for loss costs arising out of or relating to the administration of a vaccine. It has been proven that there have been people who have died from getting the vaccine, which is CDC data. Going along with that, since not all vaccines are approved and the companies are protected, is the University of Montana going to be held liable if people do have side effects? Is the university going to refund tuition for those who cannot transfer universities following the possible BOR passing of this mandate? Being in Montana there is a lower vaccination rate, and I think there is a reason for that because people want to make that choice for themselves. Being in Montana, we are going to lose a lot of students on our campus, and is that something that the university can afford to lose? Lastly, I know this was mentioned before, this is the quickest vaccine that has ever been released. The Influenza vaccine created in the 1940s was not released to civilization and approved by the FDA until 1945. You do not have to have the flu vaccine to attend this university. I think it is really awesome that there have been decades of studies about what it does and how that affects people, so I think it is something the university should not make a stance on because it is up to an individual how they want their medical freedom, especially with something so new. I am all for vaccines, but this is something so new that I do not think we should be making a stance for our students.

- k. POI (President Durnell): About students not wanting to attend a university with a vaccine mandate and if they will get a refund or not- BOR policy provides that this is conditional for a whole semester that a student can attend without providing for proof of vaccination. There will be a process and a timeline to abide by that policy and that is in L91 of the resolution as well, citation 15.
- l. Shaver: I know more people than I have fingers on my hand of people in Germany who have flown here to get vaccinated. By refusing vaccinations... I do not even know how words can describe that. How privileged must you be to disagree with a vaccination? I have seen so many businesses shutdown and have seen so much turmoil in my own town that it is ridiculous that people are still arguing about that. I can only see an affirmative vote on this resolution.
- m. Motion by **Ververis-Glueckert** to amend L173 to remove “for” before “COVID-19” and replace it with “on the Montana Board of Regents to implement a” and remove the “s” in “requirements”;
  - i. Authorship (Ververis): I think that being that the Montana BOR is the highest level of decision making for the university system, it is



appropriate to direct it to them and create a stronger message to our regents that if this resolution passes, and I hope it does, that students really want this.

ii. *Motion Passed*

- n. Motion by **Ververis-Gudmundsson** to amend L176 to remove “for” and add “BOR to implement a” and amend L180 after “UM” and add “BOR”; UC Called; Discussion Called by President Durnell

- i. Authorship (Ververis): This is for the same reason I gave in my authorship for the previous motion.
- ii. President Durnell: I agree with the amendment made in L180, but I do not agree with the amendment for L176 because it is not appropriate to advocate for this change for the entire MUS system rather than UM only. We are sending this to our regents and I encourage the motioner to withdraw and make a different amendment. I agree with the amendment in L180 but in 176, it is not appropriate to advocate for this change for the entire MUS system rather than only UM. We are sending this to our regents, and I encourage the motioner to withdraw and make an amendment simply for L176. The previous one does not really imply that we are asking them to make that change.
- iii. Motion by **Durnell-Ververis** to divide the question between the amendment on L176 and the amendment on L180
  1. *First amendment failed (L176), second amendment passed (L180).*

- o. Bowles: I would like to acknowledge how tricky of a subject this is. Vaccination is super important for the public health and safety of this campus, so I urge a vote in favor of this resolution. If we encourage a highly vaccinated student population, we are going to be able to secure our ability to be back in-person and be mostly back to normal, which makes a campus worth paying this much money for. If we do not want to go back online and prevent that in any case because we saw such a high decrease in students as they took gap years and did not want to attend school online, we need to be doing everything we can possible to prevent that from happening, and one of the ways we can do that is by getting the vaccine and encouraging others to do the same. There are around 680 public and private higher education institutions in the United States right now who are mandating vaccines. We would not be the first institution to debate this mandate and I would love to see the University of Montana join the list of institutions mandating the vaccine. This is one of the best ways for us as student leaders to have the chance to say that we support this initiative and that we understand the complexity surrounding it, but that we still understand that the vaccine is safe

and effective per the CDC and FDA. Please vote in favor of this and ask questions about anything causing hesitation in your vote.

- p. Hawthorne: From my understanding, requiring the vaccine would fall under the same category of other immunization requirements, and this poses holds for first-year students every year. I work in the admissions office and I have to remind students of these requirements, so this vaccine requirement is not out of the ordinary. When the hold comes up, students have the opportunity to refund their tuition, not register for the semester, and so on and so forth. This is not an uncommon practice to add this to a list of required vaccinations.
- q. Williams: After nearly losing my own mother, a healthcare worker, who was unvaccinated to COVID-19 and seeing her slow and not always continuous long-term recovery since then, and also seeing how her position on the vaccination changed after her experience with this disease, I think we need to do everything we can to facilitate an increase in vaccination rates. I also personally know of individuals in my hometown in Idaho who died from non-COVID medical emergencies because they were unable to access hospital beds due to the local hospitals being maxed out, largely from COVID-19 patients. Because the vaccines have been shown to prevent sickness and reduce the severity of sickness, which will affect how full hospitals are, I feel this is an important step for us to take to do our part in ending this pandemic and ensure that non-COVID patients have access to crucial medical services. I think the fact that people's lives and wellbeing's are at stake, we need to act in a good faith effort based on our current understanding of COVID-19 vaccines. For these reasons, I will be voting yes on this resolution, and I encourage everyone to do the same.
- r. McKenzie: As someone who is a student, TA, and a Senator, if you are saying we are going to see a drop in enrollment because we might require a vaccine, know that we might see a drop in lives. Not might, we will. I have lost people because of this disease, and I have family members that are anti-vaccination that have gotten vaccinated because they got COVID. Going online is not something I want to do, as I have seen firsthand what it has done to students. Not having someone checkup on you personally to ensure that you are on the other side of that screen and that you are okay... If you are on the fence, I encourage you to consider voting yes to protect people on campus, in our community, and other people who are at risk even when vaccinated.
- s. La'a: Thank you to the authors of this resolution. I will be voting yes more so as a survivor of COVID and being hospitalized for four days in January. Seeing the long-lasting side effects for myself and others who were infected. I also speak on behalf of my constituents affected directly or indirectly from

COVID. I also lost many family members and I have many family members who do not want to get vaccinated, so I encourage a yes vote.

- t. Bell: I want to take the time to acknowledge Senator Keller's concerns because they are completely valid and represent a portion of our student body. I have friends who have not gotten the vaccine just because they have not really thought about it, and I think it would be a push to those students who do not necessarily care. Back in January when Dr. Fauci did his Mansfield Center talk, he said to approach people who are skeptical about the vaccine with kindness, and I think we should try to kill disinformation but respect skepticism. Question to President Durnell- On L166 about the mask mandate, it is currently by my understanding what the University is doing now. Is that supported by UM or President Bodnar?
  - i. President Durnell: There is a slight difference which is why this is there because masks are not required in all indoor spaces. I believe that mask wearing and the efficacy of it significantly decreases when it is not campus wide in each indoor space. This clause is in there for that reason. The campus communication sometimes makes it look like it is required everywhere, so I would like a bit of an extra push to instate that.
- u. Vanderkar: I want to commend what Senator Keller had to say. It is brave to commend a different population and we do have a significant population on this campus who believes in their personal medical freedoms and who have a different view. The only thing I would add to the current discussion is that clearly over the past eight months of continuous vaccine research, is that the vaccines have clearly worked. Vaccinated people are not experiencing as severe symptoms. To make sure that the information stated earlier is correct, the Pfizer vaccine has been approved past emergency use and Moderna is on its way to be cleared by the middle of October. The more people that are not getting vaccinated, the longer this process takes. For anyone in this room that is unvaccinated, I want to tell you that the vaccine works. It has helped me, my family and friends, and my community in California and in Missoula. Vaccination rates increasing has decreased hospitalization rates, decreased the cases in each county, and more. We are seeing the positive effects of the vaccination, which makes this document make sense as something practical and positive. There are plenty of students on this campus that I totally understand where they are coming from, but this resolution is one more step that ASUM can take to show students the safety that the vaccination upholds.
- v. Jolly: I want to start by saying that I am not trying to belittle anyone who have had severe side effects or family members affected by COVID, but I am speaking from my own personal experience. I have an individual close to me

who is on life support in the ICU as a direct result of the COVID vaccine he was given last week. It took less than 12 hours for him to have to undergo a nine-hour operation in which he was given a 10% chance of survival. The surgeon in the room as well as the other people in the room operating on him unanimously agreed that it was a direct result of the vaccine. I understand that that is one particular case in my own life, but I am also fortunate that the hospital that individual is at right now (Logan Health Center), has my mom as an administrator. I would also like to say that in the Logan Health system right now there are three individuals in the hospital with COVID and over triple that suffering from reactions with the COVID vaccine. I understand that in a large number of cases the vaccine does work but speaking statistically from the single largest hospital branch throughout our state, we are seeing a greater number of hospitalizations from it right now than from actual patients. I would also like to say that we are basically elected officials to represent the University of Montana students, and if there is a large portion of the students that are not vaccinated and we encourage this mandate, then we are not really serving our students, which is not just or moral.

- w. Motion by **BM Rinck-Kiefer** for a slate of amendments: correct the color of footnotes, correct the font on L30, add a space between the whereas clause on L29 and the next clause; UC Called
- x. Gudmundsson: I would like to address a number of things. I want to point out that all of us in this room provided a vaccination passport to get here, or we provided a verifiable exemption. We would not be enrolled in this university otherwise. Underscoring that, I would like to divest this from the emotionally charged portion of this, because while I recognize that we are in the middle of this pandemic and there are significant personal experiences that have colored our opinions on this, what we are talking about here is adding a layer of protection for a preventable disease into an existing program that allows for medical and spiritual exemptions. Quite frankly, while I understand there are a number of anecdotal accounts from a variety of sources going in either direction, how many lives in our community are we going to expend to indulge the skepticism of those who claim they want to become academics? This is largely verifiable data, and I would like to point out that the Logan Health Department data that is publicly available does not support what was previously said. I also would like to highlight the fact that we are debating this when members of our community helped develop vaccines for this disease. We are losing lives to a preventable disease due to the skepticism against the speed of our medical system. Quite frankly, this is an intellectual achievement of the human race on par with the Library of Alexandria. The speed with which this vaccine was developed is quite possibly the greatest

accomplishment of modern medicine. It is the culmination of a couple hundred years of dedicated medical science and to see that as something suspicious rather than something glorious belies academic purpose. While I am sympathetic to the personal experiences of students on this campus, it is frustrating to see people who are trying to pursue a professional academic degree with verifiable credible data. You have to be able to find credible data, digest it, and report back on credible data; that is why we are here getting degrees. I think if we have students who are not willing to do that with this vaccine and who are not willing to entertain those arguments, I am fine with them not being enrolled here.

- y. Glueckert: Not to completely echo previous sentiments, but as an author of this resolution, we provided factual evidence with citations. I would ask that if you are providing so-called facts to the Senate that you come prepared with those statistics and come prepared with those informational items for the Senate to be able to confirm that they are true. I do not feel comfortable being here and confirming statistics that are quite frankly not true. I would also like to say that even though we are representatives for UM students, this is super important for the broader Missoula community, and this is super important to us because we make up a large portion of the Missoula community. I have a very little niece who just got sent to school and I have a lot of fear for her because she is five and cannot get vaccinated. I think we have a duty not only to the university but to the broader community to have the people who cannot get vaccinated be protected.
- z. Shaver: The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services has said that in Montana, the majority of beds in use right now are from COVID patients and not from the vaccine. In fact, the largest hospital group in Montana is the Billings Clinic. I would also like to point out from previous statements, the McRib was made in less than a year, and more people used it and have died from it.
- aa. Vanderkar: Per the Department of Health and Human Services and the Montana Department of Health, there have been ten fully or partially vaccinated individuals who have died from COVID-19 and seven of those individuals died due to being allergic to the vaccine itself. The total number of vaccinated people who are diagnosed with COVID-19 is less than 500 in the state of Montana. So, if you are trying to draw a correlation between the vaccine and people being in harm's way because of the vaccine, that is simply not true. The majority of people in the hospitals right now are people that have COVID-19 and that are not vaccinated, and there are 15,620 of these individuals accounted for
- bb. Glueckert: I would like to yield my time to co-author O'Neill.

- i. O'Neill: I would like to address a previous point and perhaps the root of the argument in opposition to this bill, which is the idea of personal liberties and freedoms. As a legal scholar, that is something we discuss constantly. Here, the institution is not the government in a true sense. The university setting exists in what I could only call a pseudo-government entity because we do receive federal funding, but it is a different institution. To that point, we are very privileged to be here. I know we are likely paying thousands of dollars or going into debt for our degrees. You are still choosing to be here. As a previous comment was made, the procedures for addressing vaccine misinformation already exist and we have the capacity to handle that. When the administration is equipped to handle that and you are privileged to make the choice to be here, I really would focus on that rather than the idea of individual liberty because you are choosing to be here.
- cc. Hawthorne: This disease does not only affect UM and its students and faculty but also the broader UM community. Community transmission is the highest cause for this. Our rates of transmission and vaccination are super important, but also the community rates. If we up our vaccination rates, we protect our community and the greater community. If our hospitals are full because we cannot lower those rates of transmission, that means when you go break your ankle running on the treadmill, you cannot get into the ER. Your friend with a seizure disorder cannot get into the ER. It is bigger than being skeptical, it is all of these other side effects that are not exactly thought of when you think about a vaccine requirement.
- dd. Gudmundsson: There is a Benjamin Franklin quote that has done more damage to this country recently than almost anything else and it is that "Those who would trade their freedom for a little security deserve neither", and I think it could not be less accurate. What about stoplights, what about seatbelts? I think the moment when you begin to examine that idea that one's personal freedom is somehow above all others, completely overrides the personal freedoms of your peers. Does your right to choose outweigh your peers right to live? I think that is the question here. To be a student in this university system, you have to have a certain series of immunizations, you have to abide by a certain set of rules, and you have to hold yourself to a certain standard of conduct. I think it is entirely in line with not only that standard of conduct, but that medical policy already baked into the BOR policy and into UM's induction process. I think it is supremely arrogant and selfish to believe that one's right to abstain from a community prevention measure is worth their peer's life.

- ee. Keller: I am from Washington and there are millions of people getting fired from their jobs because they refused a vaccine, which includes many people in my family. Dozens of healthcare workers in the Seattle population are also not willing to get the vaccine, which shows something. If there is not a unanimous agreement on getting a vaccine in the healthcare industry, that proves something. I think that is something that is very important, and I do have all of the sources that I used. Once again, I think it is really awesome that people are willing to get the vaccine, but it is not something that should be mandated. Going back to what is happening in Washington, the exemptions are getting denied like crazy. You cannot just say that you do not want to get vaccinated, and that is something very opposite to every other required vaccine. As mentioned before, this university is paid for partially by public tax dollars, and I think we should not be able to mandate something that students have to get to attend UM. I think it is really awesome that people are getting vaccinated, but it should be a choice because it is affecting people's livelihoods because they do not want to get vaccinated, but there is a reason and that should be respected also. I think that is something a lot of people do not respect.
- ff. Kiefer: I think we have gone through a lot of different arguments, and I do not think anybody's opinion is going to change by furthering this discussion. I think it is clear that the overwhelming majority of this body wants to pass this bill and supports the intent of this bill.

- i. Previous Question called by **Kiefer-Gudmundsson**; Objection Noted by Senator Glueckert, President Durnell, and Senator Gudmundsson

- gg. ***SB7-21/22 Passed 16Y-2N-0A***

- c. SB8-21/22: Resolution Generally Revising ASUM Fiscal Policy
  - a. Authorship (BM Rinck): This resolution is in the same vein as the resolution we saw regarding the Bylaws, but Fiscal Policy formatting looks a bit different. Fiscal Policy is numerical and linear, unlike the Bylaws. I included a similar cover-page, similar headers and footers, which are all uniform to the other governing documents. I also included some common definitions and clarified different sections, such as the amount we deposit in Special Allocation at each fiscal year and provided the correct acronym definition for S.T.I.P.
  - b. Authorship (Ververis): Thank you to BM Rinck for all of your work on this. I am listed as an author though I did not do much here, and I encourage all of you to vote yes on this.
  - c. Gudmundsson: What is the correct acronym for S.T.I.P.?
  - d. BM Rinck: "Short term investment pool", not "state term investment pool".
  - e. ***SB8-21/22 Passed Unanimously***

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. BM Rinck: One (1) Resolution Generally Revising Personnel Policy to R&A
  - a. Description: The ASUM Secretary does not take minutes at the B&F meetings, so this will revise that job description to account for it. This is also to give the ASUM Office Manager oversight of risk management in student groups
- b. Kiefer: One (1) Resolution Amending Article 6, Section 2, Subsection C of the ASUM Bylaws to R&A
  - a. Description: This resolution is updating and making language consistent for anti-bias and anti-discrimination sections of the text.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Motion to Adjourn by **Vanderkar-Ververis**; UC Called
- b. Meeting Adjourned at 9:29 pm